

From: Dirk Van Dongen - NAW
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov.'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The National Association of Wholesaler - Distributors strongly endorses the bipartisan settlement negotiated between the U.S. Department of Justice, several states and Microsoft. The settlement represents good news for the economy and for consumers of technology.

High technology is not a single industry, but various types of businesses linked together: chip makers, software developers, equipment manufacturers and marketers, service providers, and more, all working to the ultimate benefit of consumers. When government negatively impacts a pillar of the industry such as Microsoft, the entire sector suffers, as do consumers and the economy.

The terms of this settlement address the aspects of the case that were upheld by the Appeals Court, and do so without damaging Microsoft's ability to compete. Microsoft is constrained from harmful competition, but can continue to compete to improve upon and offer Windows, which is used throughout our industry, at a reasonable price.

That is precisely what our members, who are highly dependent upon networked computer systems, need: technology which is easy to use which is available at a good value.

The Microsoft settlement is the best way to achieve these ends, to the benefit of all. Prolonged litigation will only further damage our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow our organization to voice our endorsement for the settlement. We urge its adoption with all due speed.

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